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Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



Attorney General Steve Marshall Announces Court of Criminal Appeals Upholds Murder Conviction in Lee County

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the conviction of De’Aundre Jerell Neal, age 31 of Tuskegee, for attempted murder and robbery in the first-degree. Neal was convicted in the Lee County Circuit Court on June 30, 2021.

On the night of October 2, 2017, Neal and another person went into the Marathon gas station on Highway 280 in Opelika. The evidence at trial showed that Neal blocked the entrance to the gas station while his co-defendant ordered the attendant to lay on the floor at gunpoint. Ultimately, the victim was lying on the floor he was shot numerous times before being transported to a hospital in Columbus, Georgia. Neal and his co-defendant were later identified by the victim, and it was also determined that during the robbery attempt they shot another customer in the back. Fortunately, both victims survived after receiving emergency treatment at the hospital.

Lee County District Attorney Jessica Ventiere’s office successfully prosecuted this case and obtained a guilty verdict. Neal was sentenced to forty years imprisonment for his convictions. Neal sought to have his convictions reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm Neal’s convictions. The Court did so in a decision issued Friday, March 17, 2023.

Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General Kristi O. Wilkerson her successful work on this case and thanks District Attorney Jessica Ventiere and her staff, for their valuable assistance in defending the robbery and attempted murder convictions.

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